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Amendments to the Claims

Claims:

The current status of all claims is listed below and supercedes all previous lists of claims.

- 1. (original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes protein comprising at least one epitope of membrane IgE and being free of epitopes of serum IgE.
- 2. (original) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said protein is membrane IgE or a fragment thereof.
- 3. (original) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 2 wherein said protein is membrane IgE.
- 4. (currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1-3 1 further comprising coding sequence encoding of at least one non-IgE helper T cell epitope.
- 5. (original) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 4 wherein the coding sequence encoding of at least one non-IgE helper T cell epitope encodes tetanus toxoid Th epitope.
- 6. (currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of elaims 2-5 claim 2 wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a plasmid.
- 7. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of elaims 2-5 claim 2 wherein said nucleic acid molecule is incorporated in a viral vector or a bacterial cell.
- 8. (currently amended) A vaccine composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of elaims 1–7 claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
- 9. (original) A method of treating an individual who has been identified as being susceptible to an IgE mediated allergic disease or condition comprising the step of administering to such an individual a prophylactically effective amount of a vaccine of 8.
- 10. (original) A method of treating an individual who has been identified as having an IgE mediated allergic disease or condition comprising the step of administering to such an individual a therapeutically effective amount of a vaccine of 8.
- 11. (original) An isolated protein comprising at least one epitope of membrane IgE and being free of epitopes of serum IgE.

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- 12. (original) The isolated protein of claim 11 wherein said protein is membrane IgE or a fragment thereof.
- 13. (original) The isolated protein of claim 12 wherein said protein is membrane IgE.
- 14. (original) The isolated protein of claim 11 further comprising tetanus toxoid Th epitope.
- 15. (currently amended) The isolated protein of claim 11-14 11 wherein said protein is haptenized.
- 16. (currently amended) The vaccine composition comprising an isolated protein of claims 11 to claim 11 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
- 17. (original) The vaccine composition of claim 16 further comprising tetanus toxoid Th epitope.
- 18. (currently amended) A vaccine composition comprising killed or inactivated cells or particles that comprise a protein of elaims 11-15 claim 11 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
- 19. (original) The vaccine of claim 18 wherein said killed or inactivated cells or particles are haptenized.
- 20. (currently amended) A method of treating an individual who has been identified as being susceptible to an IgE mediated allergic disease or condition comprising the step of administering to such an individual a prophylactically effective amount of a vaccine of elaims 16-19 claim 16.
- 21. (currently amended) A method of treating an individual who has been identified as having an IgE mediated allergic disease or condition comprising the step of administering to such an individual a therapeutically effective amount of a vaccine of elaims 16-19 claim 16.
- 22. (original) A host cell comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes protein comprising at least one epitope of membrane IgE and being free of epitopes of serum IgE.
- 23. (original) The host cell of claim 22 wherein said protein is membrane IgE or a fragment thereof.
- 24. (original) The host cell of claim 23 wherein said protein is membrane IgE.
- 25. (currently amended) The host cell of claim 22-24 22 further comprising coding sequence encoding of at least one non-IgE helper T cell epitope.

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- 26. (original) The host cell of claim 25 wherein the coding sequence encoding of at least one non-IgE helper T cell epitope encodes tetanus toxoid Th epitope.
- 27. (currently amended) The host cell of elaims 22-26 claim 22 wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a plasmid.
- 28. (currently amended) A method of producing a protein comprising at least one epitope of membrane IgE and being free of epitopes of serum IgE comprising culturing a host cell of elaims 22-27 claim 22 and isolating said protein expressed thereby.
- 29. (original) The method of claim 28 wherein the protein is isolated using antibodies that specifically bind to said protein.
- 30. (currently amended) Antibodies that specifically bind to a protein of claims 11-14 claim 11.
- 31. (original) The antibodies of claim 30 wherein said antibodies are Mabs, humanized Mabs, human antibodies, or Fab or (Fab)2 thereof